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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/630,356	08/01/2000	Masayuki Yamada	36409-00100	7717

7590

06/04/2003

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EXAMINER

NOLAN, DANIEL A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2655

DATE MAILED: 06/04/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/630,356

Applicant(s)

YAMADA, MASAYUKI

Examiner

Daniel A. Nolan

Art Unit

2655

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 April 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3,5,11,15,17,23 and 49-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 2,5,11,17,23 and 49 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 3,15,50 and 51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on 01 August 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Response to Amendment

2. The responses filed 30 September & 21 October, 2002 have been applied to the following effect:
 - The specification was changed as indicated and the objections are withdrawn as satisfied. There are no objections to the specification, the claims or the drawings that remain outstanding.
 - Claims 1, 4, 6-10, 12, 13, 16, 18-22 and 24 are cancelled
 - Claims 14 and 25-48 were previously cancelled.
 - Claims 2, 3, 5, 11, 15, 17 and 23 were changed as indicated and the objections are withdrawn as satisfied.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Gasper et al & Swaminathan et al

4. Claims 3, 15, 50 and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gasper et al (U.S. Patent 5,278,943) in view of Swaminathan et al (U.S. Patent 5,751,903).

5. Regarding claims 3 and 50, Gasper et al addresses the features in *generating a speech segment dictionary for holding a plurality of speech segments* by teaching the necessity of supporting different representations and encoding methods (column 6 lines 30-32) along with the well-known processes of *encoding speech and storing in a speech segment dictionary* (column 2 lines 64-68).

- Gasper et al does not mention constructing codebooks, but Swaminathan et al (column 2 lines 60-66) reads on the feature of *a construction step of constructing quantization code books using one or more speech segments* which would have made it obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of speech signal processing at the time of the invention to apply the method/teachings of Swaminathan et al to the device/method of Gasper et al so as to organize the segments into a codebook table form for speed of access.
- Gasper et al (column 2 lines 64-68) reads on the feature of an encoding step of encoding a speech segment using one of the quantization code books (equivalent to the *look-up table* described in column 3 line 20).

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- Gasper et al (claim 13 line 6) reads on the feature of a storage step of storing the encoded speech segment encoded in said encoding step in the speech segment dictionary (as, the voice library file as previously noted).

6. Regarding claims 15 and 51, Gasper et al (column 1 lines 11-12) reads on the features of the claims for the *speech information processing method of synthesizing speech* with Swaminathan et al as follows:

- The initial features of *using a speech segment dictionary, constructing quantization code books, encoding and storing* are the same as those found in claims 3 and 50, and the basis for rejection is applied correspondingly.
- Gasper et al (column 6 lines 1-4) reads on the feature of providing *decoding means for decoding the encoded speech segment by using the quantization code books constructed by said construction means*

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 2, 5, 11, 17, 23 and 49 are allowed.

8. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

- Regarding claims 2 and 49, while Akamine et al (U.S. Patent 5,671,327) considers distortion against calculated values, the features of *storing the*

encoded speech segment ... where the encoding distortion produced at a 1st encoding step is less than a predetermined value; and a 2nd encoding step of encoding the speech segment, in a case where the encoding distortion produced at the 1st encoding step is not less than the predetermined value were neither found to be anticipated nor were they found in obvious combination in the prior art of reference.

- The common feature of claims 5, 11, 17 & 23 is phrased so as to preclude a simple alternative between the methods named in the claim. Consequently, the Examiner is proceeding with the understanding that the claims require:
 - o That the invention has the capability of performing all cited methods, and
 - o That the choice is made to implement one of those available methods is supported at all times by the invention.
- Regarding claims 5, 11, 17 & 23 as understood by the Examiner, where multi-code methods do conventionally support a plurality of encoding schemes, the feature that simultaneously supports the *mu-law scheme, scalar quantization, and linear predictive coding encoding methods* is neither anticipated nor was it found in obvious combination in the prior art of record.

9. As allowable subject matter has been indicated, applicant's reply must either comply with all formal requirements or specifically traverse each requirement not complied with. See 37 CFR 1.111(b) and MPEP § 707.07(a).

Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Daniel A. Nolan at telephone (703) 305-1368 whose normal business hours are Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri, from 7 AM to 5 PM.

If attempts to contact the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doris To, can be reached at (703) 305-4827.

The fax phone number for Technology Center 2600 is (703) 872-9314. Label informal and draft communications as "DRAFT" or "PROPOSED", & designate formal communications as "EXPEDITED PROCEDURE".

Formal response to this action may be faxed according to the above instructions, or mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or hand-delivered to:

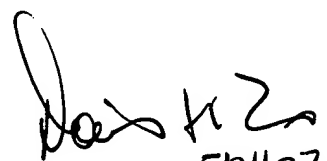
Crystal Park 2,
2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA,
Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office at telephone number (703) 306-0377.

Daniel A. Nolan
Examiner
Art Unit 2655

DAN/d

May 22, 2003


DORIS H. TO 5/31/03
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600